

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: April 19, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:33 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:12 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Vernon Brown
Greg Bowes
William Oliver
Lynn McWhirter
Scott Schneider

Absent Members

Sherron Franklin
Lincoln Plowman

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 186, 2006 - reappoints Rondle W. Brewer to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board as a representative of the offender community
"Do Pass" Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 243, 2006 - reappoints Les Duval to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 244, 2006 - appoints Adrian Homes to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 245, 2006 - approves an increase of \$23,083 in the 2006 budget of the Marion County Prosecutor (State and Federal Grants Fund and the County Grants Fund) to partially fund the salary and benefits for a domestic violence prosecutor through a subgrant from IPD's "Grant to Encourage Arrest" from the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women
"Do Pass" Vote: 5-0

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Presentation – David Forsell, President

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. Chairwoman Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with the following members present: Greg Bowes, Vernon Brown, William Oliver, Lynn McWhirter, and Scott Schneider. Absent were Sherron Franklin and Lincoln Plowman.

Consent was given to move Proposal No. 245, 2006 to the beginning of the agenda.

PROPOSAL NO. 245, 2006 - approves an increase of \$23,083 in the 2006 budget of the Marion County Prosecutor (State and Federal Grants Fund and the County Grants Fund) to partially fund the salary and benefits for a domestic violence prosecutor through a subgrant from IPD's "Grant to Encourage Arrest" from the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women

Lisa Borges, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, stated that this funding is from a surplus amount left in the "Grant to Encourage Arrest". She said that this amount will fund a partial salary of a domestic violence prosecutor.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 245, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 186, 2006 - reappoints Rondle W. Brewer to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board as a representative of the offender community

Rondle Brewer stated that his first appointment was in 1991, and since then he has been actively involved with the community corrections process. He stated that he has served as a chaplain of Jail I for 16 years, and in Jail II for nine years. Mr. Brewer stated that Community Corrections is headed in the right direction.

Dave Cook, Public Defender, stated that he is the Chairman of the Community Corrections Advisory Board and added that Mr. Brewer's work in the jail system is invaluable and critical in providing the appropriate perspective to the things that need to be completed in Community Corrections. Mr. Cook stated that Mr. Brewer is an extremely valuable member to the committee.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to send Proposal No. 186, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 243, 2006 - reappoints Les Duval to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Les Duval stated that he was serving in the Indiana Senate when Community Corrections was created in 1979. He said he also served on the original advisory board and has been serving for a

very long time. He said that he feels very strongly about the importance of Community Corrections. Mr. Duval stated that he has seen Community Corrections start from a state-wide appropriation of \$250,000 and grow into the current appropriation of about \$30 million.

(Clerks note: Councillor Schneider arrived at 5:38 p.m.)

Mr. Cook stated that Mr. Duval is like the father of Community Corrections. He said that Mr. Duval stayed with Community Corrections to ensure that what took place with the initial enactment became something of considerable meaning.

Councillor Brown thanked Mr. Duval as well as Mr. Brewer for their time and service on the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Schneider, to send Proposal No. 243, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 244, 2006 - appoints Adrian Homes to the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Adrienne Holmes stated that she has been the Pastor of Bell Chapel Church of God for six years. She said that she loves people, and likes to see people become productive with their lives. Ms. Holmes said there are 15 ex-offenders that attend her church on a regular basis. Some of them are working in the day care. The church also has a program called Hanna's Helping Hand, where they take babies from women who are pregnant and in prison and keep the babies until the mothers get out. Then they help the mothers get on their feet to the point where they can take care of themselves and their babies.

Councillor Brown stated that Pastor Holmes is a jewel on the eastside of Indianapolis. She helps the community a lot and he supports her appointment.

Councillor Oliver asked Ms. Holmes if she has any suggestions for the board regarding ex-offenders. Ms. Holmes suggested giving employers some type of incentive for hiring an ex-offender. She said that this would encourage ex-offenders to be hired. Ms. Holmes said that it costs more than \$13,000 to house a prisoner. She asked why instead they cannot pay that offender the \$13,000 for service, and they can house themselves. She said that she applied for federal funding for the daycare to help low-income parents. She was denied because she had felons working in the daycare. She said that the commissioner works for the federal government and is pushing for companies to hire ex-offenders, but the government will not give aid to companies if they have felons working at those companies. Ms. Holmes said that this process is backward and needs to be re-examined.

Mr. Brewer encouraged the committee to vote in support of Ms. Holmes' appointment.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 244, 2006 to the full Council with a “Do Pass ” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(Clerks note: Councillor Schneider left at 6:01 p.m.)

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Presentation - Dave Forsell, President

Dave Forsell, President of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), stated that KIB is a private, charitable, non-profit organization and has been in existence for 30 years. He said that the KIB mission statement is uniting people, beautifying the city, improving the environment, and fostering pride.

Mr. Forsell presented a brief update on KIB. (Clerk’s note: A copy of this presentation is on file in the Council office.)

Some key points are:

- For every dollar that the City invests in the KIB contract, KIB is able to leverage that with ten private dollars.
- Some programs that are in the contract are neighborhood revitalization activities, education and management of volunteer recycling issues, and litter clean ups.
- Operation My Town is fostering a sense of ownership, creating an investment, and developing responsibilities in the communities.
- The goal of KIB, which is supported by the City, is to plant 100,000 trees in Indianapolis over the next 10 years.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked what areas will be affected when the plan is in place to start planting trees. Mr. Forsell said that they only have so much funding for this plan currently and they are going to target two of the six hot spots in Center Township. He said that they will visit each of the six and see which community needs greenery the most.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee